

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

UNCLAS STATE 168348

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CI, CASC (HORMAN, CHARLES), SREF, SHUM

SUBJECT: GONZALEZ/HORMAN CASE

1. FOLLOWING IS LATEST GUIDANCE MADE AVAILABLE TO DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN REGARDING GONZALEZ/HORMAN CASES. NO QUESTIONS ASKED ON JULY 7.

Q: IS THE DEPARTMENT MAKING ANY FURTHER EFFORT TO FIND OUT WHO IS RESPONSIBLE FOR CHARLES HORMAN'S DEATH AFTER THE COUP IN CHILE IN THE LIGHT OF NEW INFORMATION REVEALED RECENTLY BY THE PRESS?

A: OUR EFFORTS TO LEARN THE FACTS ABOUT THE STILL UNEXPLAINED DEATHS IN CHILE OF TWO AMERICANS--CHARLES HORMAN AND FRANK TERRUGGI--BEGAN WITH THOSE DEATHS IN 1973 AND ARE CONTINUING. DURING THESE NEARLY THREE YEARS WE HAVE FOLLOWED UP--WITH THE CHILEAN AUTHORITIES, WITH DEPARTMENT OF STATE PERSONNEL, AND WITH OTHER U.S. AGENCIES--ALL POSSIBLE LEADS. WE HAVE BEEN PURSUING POSSIBLE LEADS THAT APPEARED LAST MONTH WITH REGARD TO ITALIAN EMBASSY ASYLEE
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RAFAEL GONZALEZ.

SPECIFICALLY, SINCE GONZALEZ WAS INTERVIEWED BY JOURNALISTS IN JUNE, OUR CONSUL IN SANTIAGO HAS TALKED WITH HIM SEVERAL TIMES - THE LAST TIME JULY 6 - IN AN EFFORT TO ESTABLISH PRECISELY THE EXTENT OF HIS KNOWLEDGE ABOUT CHARLES HORMAN'S DEATH. ON JUNE 14 OUR EMBASSY ALSO DELIVERED A FORMAL NOTE TO THE CHILEAN FOREIGN MINISTRY REQUESTING THAT GONZALEZ' ASSERTIONS ABOUT CHARLES HORMAN'S DEATH BE INVESTIGATED AND THAT OUR EMBASSY BE INFORMED OF THE RESULTS.

Q: HAVE YOU RECEIVED A REPLY ON CHARLES HORMAN FROM THE CHILEAN GOVERNMENT?

A: THE EMBASSY RECEIVED A REPLY ON JULY 2. THE CHILEAN NOTE STATED THAT COLONEL BARRIA, REPORTEDLY PRESENT IN GENERAL LUTZ' OFFICE, WHEN CONSULTED BY THE CHILEAN GOVERNMENT EMPHATICALLY STATED THAT MR. GONZALES' ACCUSATIONS WERE ABSOLUTELY FALSE. THE NOTE ALSO POINTED OUT THAT GENERAL LUTZ HAS SINCE DIED. THE CHILEANS STATED THAT THEY HAVE NOTHING FURTHER TO ADD TO THEIR NOTE OF DECEMBER 13, 1973, WHICH WAS THEIR REPORT OF THE CHILEAN GOVERNMENT INVESTIGATION REGARDING CHARLES HORMAN'S DEATH.

Q: DID THE USG KNOW THAT HORMAN WAS DEAD BEFORE TELLING HIS FAMILY?

A: ABSOLUTELY NOT. AS WE HAVE REPEATEDLY ASSURED CHARLES HORMAN'S FATHER, WE FIRST LEARNED OF HIS SON'S DEATH ON OCTOBER 18 WHEN CHILEAN AUTHORITIES INFORMED OUR EMBASSY THAT A BODY HAD BEEN IDENTIFIED THROUGH FINGERPRINTS AS THAT OF CHARLES HORMAN. MR. HORMAN'S FATHER WAS THEN IN SANTIAGO, AND THE U.S. CONSUL INFORMED HIM IMMEDIATELY BY TELEPHONE.

Q: IT HAS BEEN CHARGED THAT A "RANKING EMBASSY OFFICIAL" HAD BEEN RELIABLY INFORMED TWO WEEKS EARLIER THAT CHARLES HAD BEEN SHOT ON OR BEFORE SEPTEMBER 20."

A. NO SUCH REPORT WAS RECEIVED IN OUR EMBASSY. WE DID NOT
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KNOW SUCH A REPORT WAS EVEN ALLEGED UNTIL PUBLICATION OF THE WASHINGTON POST OF JUNE 20.

Q: THE DEPARTMENT IS ALSO ACCUSED OF A LATER COVERUP, OF WITHHOLDING INFORMATION ABOUT THE CIRCUMSTANCES OF HORMAN'S DEATH FROM HIS FAMILY DURING THE PAST 2-1/2 YEARS.

A: WE HAVE PROVIDED MR. HORMAN'S FAMILY AND INTERESTED CONGRESSMEN WITH ALL THE INFORMATION RELATED TO CHARLES

HORMAN'S DISAPPEARANCE AND SUBSEQUENT DEATH THAT WE HAD OR WERE ABLE TO ACQUIRE. UNFORTUNATELY, DESPITE REPEATED EFFORTS WE HAVE BEEN UNABLE TO OBTAIN A DEFINITIVE EXPLANATION OF THE CIRCUMSTANCES OF HIS DEATH.

Q: WILL THE DEPARTMENT LAY THESE CHARGES OF COVER-UP TO REST BY MAKING PUBLIC ALL THE PERTINENT INFORMATION ABOUT THE HORMAN CASE?

A: WE HAVE ALREADY MADE ALL THE PERTINENT INFORMATION AVAILABLE TO MR. HORMAN'S FAMILY AND TO INTERESTED CONGRESSIONAL REPRESENTATIVES.

Q: WHAT ABOUT THE ALLEGATION THAT A U.S. INTELLIGENCE OFFICER WAS PRESENT WHEN THE ORDER TO KILL HORMAN WAS ISSUED?

A: FIRST, I WILL REPEAT WHAT WAS SAID HERE JUNE 10: "WE STATE CATEGORICALLY THAT NO U.S. INTELLIGENCE REPRESENTATIVE WAS PRESENT WHEN THIS ALLEGED ORDER WAS GIVEN, NOR WAS THE USG AWARE OF OR IN ANY WAY INVOLVED IN ANY CHILEAN INTERROGATION OF HORMAN."

SECOND, GONZALEZ TO OUR KNOWLEDGE HAS NEVER GONE BEYOND --NOR HAS HE BEEN REPORTED TO HAVE GONE BEYOND--THE CLAIM THAT SOMEONE WAS PRESENT WHOM HE "ASSUMED" WAS AN INTELLIGENCE OFFICER. HE TOLD OUR CONSUL HE HAD SEEN A MAN IN CIVILIAN CLOTHES AND AMERICAN-STYLE SHOES AND THAT THIS MAN DID NOT SPEAK IN HIS PRESENCE.

Q: DOES GONZALEZ SAY HE KNOWS ANYTHING ABOUT THE OTHER
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AMERICAN KILLED FOLLOWING THE COUP?

A: HE HAS BEEN ASKED AND HAS DENIED KNOWING ANYTHING ABOUT FRANK TERUGGI. KISSINGER

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